(b) M/s. ICICI Ltd. was asked to submit the report within four months, i.e., by the end of July, 1997.

(c) and (d) M/s. ICICI Ltd. has recently submitted a draft preliminary report. They are, however, awaiting certain input from National Ship Design & Reserach Centre (NSDRC), Visakhapatnam. This has since been given to M/s. ICICI Ltd. who are likely to submit their final report on the long term revival of HDPE shortly.

**New National Highways in Gujarat**

889. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 4236 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th May, 1997 and state;

(a) the present length of National Highway in each State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the total length of NH in Gujarat is much less than as compared to other States;

(c) if so, the action Government have taken or propose to take in order to give justice to the State in this regard; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the development of NH in the State during the Ninth Plan period and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) A statement showing details is given below.

(b) and (c) Since National Highways are intended to serve National interests as distinct from local interests, Roads are declared as National Highways keeping in view the country as a whole and not on any regional area/population/State basis.

(d) The 9th Plan is yet to be finalised. However, for the corrent year 1997-98, the State Government of Gujarat has been allocated funds to the tune of Rs. 35 crores for the development of National Highways.

**Statement**

*Length of National Highway in Different States.*

| S. No. | Name of States | Total Length (Km.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2888 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 330 |
| 3. | Assam | 2296 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2547 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 24 |
| 6. | Delhi | 72 |
| 7. | Goa | 229 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 1631 |
| 9. | Haryana | 698 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 854 |
| 11. | Jammu & Kashmir | 648 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 1996 |
| 13. | Kerala | 940 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 2946 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 2918 |
| 16. | Manipur | 431 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 472 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 551 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 113 |
| 20. | Orissa | 1649 |
| 21. | Pondicherry | 23 |
| 22. | Punjab | 892 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 2931 |
| 24. | Sikkim | 62 |
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 1896 |
| 26. | Tripura | 200 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 2733 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 1638 |
| | TOTAL: | 34,608 |

**Merchant Vessels Sank in Indian Waters**

890. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Merchant Vessels sank in Indian waters in the month of June 1997;

(b) If so, the loss of life and property as a result thereof and the names of such

ships and the country to which they belonged;

(c) whether any inquiry into the causes of their sinking has been conducted; and

(d) if so, the details of findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, M.V. 'Arcadia Pride' an Indian Flag vessel and M.V. 'Green Opal' a Panamian flag vessel sank/grounded in the Indian waters on 19th June 1997. In case of M.V. 'Green Opal' all the crew members were rescued whereas in case of M.V. 'Arcadia Pride' out of a total crew of 33 members, 9 could be rescued and 5 bodies recovered. Remaining 19 crew members are presumed to have died. Preliminary inquiries into the incident are being conducted by the Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Departments at Mumbai and Calcutta respectively. The inquiry reports are expected to throw light on the extent of loss of property.

**Dues of Goa from Mormugao Port Trust**

891. SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Goa Government have claimed dues from Mormugao Port Trust for using such land;

(b) if so, whether the land of MPT belong to Goa Government or stand transferred to MPT; and

(c) the dues so claimed by the State Government and for how many years?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The State Government of Goa have raised a bill amounting to Rs. 6,16,20,853 as Lease Rentals and arrears during December, 1996 for the 128 acres of land allotted to the Mormugao Port by the then Goa Government during 1971 and between 1980 and 1983.

**CHOMU and KOTA by-pass in Rajasthan**

892. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government proposals for (i) alignment of CHOMU by-pass and (ii) construction of KOTA by-pass are pending for approval of the Central Government since 1990; and

(b) if so, the present stage of consideration and how much more time the Central government would take to accord/convey the necessary sanction to State Government?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No such proposals are pending for consideration by the Central Government at this stage.

(b) Does not arise.

**Facilities to entrepreneurs/private individuals/firms for development and construction of roads**

893. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities extended to the entrepreneurs/private individuals/ firms in respect of development and construction of roads in the country;

(b) the details of projects in private sector received in respect of state of Karnataka during last one year;

(c) the status of such projects as on date and the details of incentives offered to the entrepreneurs in the State;

(d) whether Government have fixed any time limit for completion of these projects; and

(e) whether the State Government of Karnataka has asked for Central fund for such road project; if so, the details thereof including the time by when such assistance would be extended?